



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of May 09, 2005

BANGLADESH

Nipah Virus Kills 81 People So Far in Bangladesh

The Nipah virus in Bangladesh has so far killed 81 people out of 107 cases. Five outbreaks and 11 sporadic non-outbreaks of Nipah virus have been reported since 2001. Fruit bats are the natural reservoir of the Nipah virus in Bangladesh. In addition, climbing trees, drinking raw date palm juice or fruit, contact with sick animals and people are risk factors for Nipah virus infection. Each outbreak in Bangladesh occurred between January and April.

Source:

• The Daily Star, May 13, 2005, <http://www.thedailystar.net/2005/05/13/d50513100278.htm>

Diarrhea Spreading in Magura, Bangladesh

Diarrhea has broken out in an epidemic form throughout the Magura district (in western Bangladesh). About 2,500 people, most of them children, have been affected within a span of one week. Extreme heat of summer, consumption of contaminated food and unsafe drinking water are the main causes of the outbreak. Fifty-three medical teams comprised of doctors, nurses and health assistants are working in the affected villages to combat the disease.

Source:

• The Independent, May 10, 2005, <http://independent-bangladesh.com/news/may/10/10052005ct.htm#A1>

HONG KONG

Imported Case of Dengue Fever in Hong Kong

The Center for Health Protection, Hong Kong, has confirmed an imported case of Dengue fever involving a 27 year old woman who developed fever, bone pain and headache on 9 February 2005. It brings the total number of Dengue fever cases in

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2005 in Hong Kong to 6, all imported. The woman had been in Indonesia 3-17 February 2005. The patient's family contacts have no symptoms of the disease.

Source:

· News.gov.hk, Hong Kong, May 09, 2005, <http://www.news.gov.hk/en/category/healthandcommunity/050509/html/050509en05004.htm>
· Promed Mail, May 10, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15842103330631959201::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,28888

INDIA

16 Deaths from Meningococcal Disease in India Reported to WHO

Between 29 March and 10 May 2005, a total of 214 cases including 16 deaths (case fatality rate 7.5%) have been reported to The World Health Organization (WHO). The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) has confirmed N. meningitidis serogroup A in 7 cerebrospinal fluid specimens. Most of the cases have been reported from Delhi. The number of cases continues to rise and additional cities are reporting cases. Other reports state the number of cases as 250 and a death toll of 18. These numbers may include cases outside of Delhi. Outbreak response activities include surveillance for early case detection, case management, chemoprophylaxis of close contacts and vaccination of the population at high risk.

Source:

· Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response, WHO Website, May 12, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_05_12/en/index.html
· Promed Mail, May 11, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:10127205166904701821::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,28900
· WebIndia123.com, May 11, 2005,
http://news.webindia123.com/news/states.asp?state=ES14%2CDelhi&count=11&action=fullstory&n_date=ES14%2CDelhi5%2F12%2F200511

Four People Die of Diarrhea in Krishnagiri, India

Four people have died of diarrhea in the past week in villages in the Veppanapalli panchayat union in Krishnagiri district (western India). Others suffering from acute diarrhea were admitted to health centers and hospitals. Stool samples of the patients have been sent to a government research center for cholera testing.

Source:

· New India Press, May 04, 2005, <http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20050503122238&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+-+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0>
· Promed Mail, May 07, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15842103330631959201::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,28865

INDONESIA

Five Cases of Polio in Indonesia

Three new cases of Polio have been confirmed in Indonesia – all of the children infected are under five years old and are from the Sukabumi district in West Java. Two other cases were detected earlier in the week, bringing the total to five cases. The outbreak

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is the first in Indonesia since it eradicated polio almost a decade ago. Polio is a waterborne virus that usually affects infants and young children, causing paralysis, withered muscles and sometimes death. There is no known cure. Indonesian health authorities have initiated an immunization drive targeting up to five million children to prevent the Polio from spreading. The disease remains endemic in only six countries - Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Source:

· ABC Radio Australia, May 06, 2005, <http://www.abc.net.au/ra/news/stories/s1361957.htm>

MALAYSIA

Cook and 100 Pupils Hospitalized for Cholera

More than 100 pupils and a canteen cook in the Semporna district (eastern Malaysia), have been admitted to a hospital after they showed signs of cholera. The cholera outbreak was first detected when a cook at the SK Bubul II, who was suffering from fever, diarrhea and vomiting was rushed to the hospital. Since then, 106 pupils from the school and seven students from the nearby SMK Kabongan II, had also be hospitalized. Health authorities in the district have ordered the canteens in the two schools to close and are taking measures to prevent the spread of the disease. Although cholera is endemic to Semporna the current outbreak is more severe than the previous outbreak.

Source:

· The Star Online, May 12, 2005,

<http://thestar.com.my/news/archives/story.asp?ppath=2005512&file=/2005/5/12/nation/10925752&sec=nation>

200 Food Stalls Closed in Malaysia Following Typhoid Cases

Approximately 200 food stalls in Jelawat, Malaysia (eastern region) were ordered closed for a day (4 May 2005) and their operators instructed to clean their premises to prevent the spread of typhoid in the district, which has already recorded 53 cases. The directive came from health authorities following complaints that many people had been infected by the fever after eating cakes from the stalls. Twelve operators were ordered to close their stalls for two weeks for breaching the rules on hygiene, and 100 operators were given anti-typhoid injections. Meanwhile, typhoid fever cases in Kelantan have dropped sharply since last week, an indication that the worst of that outbreak may be over. During the height of the outbreak, there was an average of 100 cases per week -- now, there are only 30 cases per week, and the number is still decreasing.

Source:

· Bernama.com, May 04, 2005, http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/state_news/news.php?id=132429&cat=et

· Promed Mail, May 09, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15842103330631959201::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,28879

· New Straits Times, May 07, 2005, http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Saturday/NewsBreak/20050507154743/Article/indexb.html

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Health Officials Search for Cause of Diarrhea Outbreak in Malaysia

Health officials are trying to find the possible causes of diarrhea and fever that affected 150 children in Sabah's Kota Belud district (eastern Malaysia) over the past week. Although health officials initially ruled out cholera and typhoid, they will carry out tests on all samples for the diseases to cover all bases. The affected children were from 20 villages in the district. Health officers have collected samples of piped water from the affected areas and are looking at the quality of the water supply. They hope to know more about the situation in a few days.

Source:

· The Star, May 04, 2005, <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/5/4/nation/10853959&sec=nation>
· Promed Mail, May 07, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15842103330631959201::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,28865

PHILIPPINES

Dengue Fever Cases Increase by 78% Since Last Year in the Philippines

Dengue fever has killed 9 people, all children, in the Philippines from January to April 2005. The dengue virus has affected more than 540 residents so far, an increase from 2004's 303 cases, two of which were fatal. Due to the scarcity of water, especially in the mountain barangays, people tend to store water in lidless containers that could be breeding sites for mosquitoes. Health officials anticipate the number of cases will continue to increase because of the dry spells. The Philippines has experienced a large increase (78%) in dengue fever infections from January to April 2005 compared with the same period of 2004. According to the local health authorities, children aged 1 to 9 years are predicted to suffer most from this surge of dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Source:

· The Freeman, Philippines, May 06, 2005, <http://www.thefreeman.com/local/story-20050506-30088.html>
· Promed Mail, May 10, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15842103330631959201::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,28888

THAILAND

Rare Strain of Malaria Kills One Man in Southern Thailand

A recent death (40 year-old man) caused by a rare strain of malaria in the South has initiated an official alert regarding the possibility of infection, particularly around the Thai-Burmese border areas. The victim died of malaria after being treated for only two days at Chumphon Hospital. His blood sample tested positive for an acute type of malaria not seen in the province for the past decade. The Plasmodium Faltiparum serotype (subtype) of the malaria parasite is suspected to be the cause of death. This type of malaria is very rare in the South but common in the North, especially around the Burmese border. Malaria is the cause of about 200 deaths every year in Thailand, with

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this rare and acute type accounting for most of the fatalities. About 30,000 cases of malaria are reported each year, most of which are in the North.

Source:

· The Nation, May 13, 2005, http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2005/05/13/national/index.php?news=national_17349690.html

Dengue Fever Kills 12 People in Thailand

Thailand is facing a severe outbreak of dengue fever with 12 people dead so far this year. This is twice the number a year earlier. Dengue has infected 7,200 people as of May 7, of whom 12 have died (this is up from seven deaths in the same period last year). The outbreak usually peaks between late June and July when wet season rains are especially heavy and is expected to reach epidemic proportions during this time. The disease killed 176 of 114,800 infected people in 2002. Dengue fever is characterized by high fever, rash, headaches, and severe muscle and joint pain.

Source:

· Reuters Foundation Alertnet, May 12, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BKK93822.htm>

· The Nation, May 12, 2005, http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2005/05/12/national/index.php?news=national_17335138.html

VIETNAM

Dengue Fever Spreading in Vietnam

Dengue fever has now spread to 20 provinces in southern Vietnam with a total of 6290 cases so far, including 3 deaths. Ho Chi Minh City has the most patients infected followed by An Giang province with 714 cases. The disease is also present in Tien Giang province with 664 cases, Dong Thap province with 577 cases, Soc Trang province with 537 cases, Can Tho city with 411 cases and Hau Giang province with 203 cases including one death

Source:

· Thanh Nien Daily, May 07, 2005, <http://www.thanhniennews.com/healthy/?catid=8&newsid=6538>

· Promed Mail, May 10, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15842103330631959201::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,28888

Doubts Arising About Avian Influenza Diagnostic Testing (in Humans) in Vietnam

A diagnostic test designed by Canadian researchers and used in Viet Nam to detect avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection is out of date, according to scientists from the National Microbiology Laboratory, raising the possibility that some human cases may have been dismissed in error. The test uses genetic sequencing information from samples of the virus that circulated in the first quarter of 2004. But the virus has changed since then and questions exist about the test's sensitivity. Earlier this year [2005], Japanese scientists retested a number of specimens that technicians at a lab in Ho Chi Minh City had determined were negative. The re-analysis found several rejected cases were actually positive.

Source:

· Promed Mail, May 09, 2005,

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